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Our Paper: Serving the Alternative Community

Periodicals

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2-1987

## Our Paper 02/1987

Our Paper

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# Our Paper

FREE

Vol. 4, No. 6

February, 1987

A  
VOICE  
FOR  
LESBIANS  
AND  
GAY MEN  
IN MAINE

## Bills Being Readied for Legislative Session

By Brenda Buchanan

A lesbian gay rights bill will be introduced in the Maine Legislature again this year, but it is only one of the proposals that bears watching in the 113th session.

A wide variety of measures of interest to the community—from a bill that aims to put teeth into the laws against verbal or physical harassment to a package of proposals designed to address the AIDS crisis to bills that would help women overcome the discrimination that is institutionalized in our society—will be debated by lawmakers this winter.

Bills affecting the community will come from several groups. The Maine Lesbian Gay Political Alliance will be the prime backer of the lesbian/gay civil rights measure and of a proposal that would give law enforcement officials power to act when people are being harassed or attacked on the basis of race, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, spiritual beliefs, physical disability or any similar characteristic. The bill is an attempt to address hate violence—actions clearly committed because of intolerance for differences.

The need for provisions in the law to require police to act at the first sign of harassment or violence became tragically obvious in November, 1985 when a Lewiston man accidentally shot and killed one of several young men who had been repeatedly harassing him for eight months on account of his gayness.

Maine's current harassment laws require an offender to be warned first that their specific behavior is illegal, and that allows plenty of latitude to continue the harassment while evading arrest. According to Dale McCormick, president of MLGPA, the bill will propose a different method—one similar to that in Maine's domestic violence prevention law—which authorizes immediate police action when an offense occurs.

A variety of groups representing other people who are routinely harassed are

expected to work closely with MLGPA in lobbying for the bill's passage.

For the civil rights bill, it is the same as in past sessions. It proposes that lesbians and gay men be added to the classes of people protected under Maine's Human Rights Act against discrimination in housing, employment, credit and public accommodations.

McCormick and other MLGPA members are optimistic that there will be more support for the bill in the 113th than in past sessions. The measure's history shows slow progression, as lawmakers have grown increasingly open toward the aim of guaranteeing civil rights legislatively to lesbians and gay men. In the 112th session, the bill passed in the Senate but was defeated in the House of Representatives.

Other bills of interest to the community that will be debated this year are as follows:

### AIDS-related bills

The Bureau of Health expects to submit a bill that will address needs for education, insurance protections, and informed consent for those taking the HIV antibody test.

Dr. Lani Graham of the bureau said recently that the education section of the bill would require AIDS prevention information be made part of the sex education curriculum starting in grade school. She said that probably will be a joint proposal of the Bureau of Health and the Department of Educational and Cultural Services. The bill envisions students being given "real information," she said, not a cursory lesson.

"The implication," Graham said, "is that we'll have to have good sex education at the grade school level."

The insurance section of the Bureau of Health's bill seeks to extend the sunset (expiration) provision of last year's measure until a high-risk state insurance pool has been created for those at risk for

AIDS. Last year's bill prohibits insurance companies from asking applicants if they have had an HIV test, and if so, what the results indicated.

A separate bill proposing that a high-risk pool be established is expected to be introduced by a study committee that has been examining the issues since last session.

The AIDS Advisory Committee, which was created last year to advise the Department of Human Services on AIDS-related issues, recently endorsed the education and insurance sections of the Bureau of Health bill, but debate arose over the informed consent part. The notion that all people to whom the test is administered must be informed what it's about was embraced by all, but the advantages and disadvantages of written consent were debated.

Some believe written consent is the only way to make sure pre-test counseling is being done, because it makes health care providers accountable. Others are wary of any record being made of who has taken the test. A system by which identifying numbers might be used was discussed, and probably will be again.

Another provision of the Bureau of Health bill seeks funding for a nurse position. The nurse would do HIV testing and provide client services. It would be the only state position devoted solely to

*continued on page 5*

## Trial Set for Assault Suspect

by Brenda Buchanan

A South Portland man who has been charged with two counts of assault in connection with a September 6, 1986 incident outside a Portland women's bar has pleaded not guilty, and will be tried February 19.

David Deschaine, 21, was summoned on two counts of assault after statements by women he allegedly assaulted were filed with Portland police. He was arraigned in Maine District Court on December 19, and entered a 'not guilty' plea at the time. Court documents show that Deschaine also asked for a court-appointed attorney, but that request was denied. The court is required to furnish legal representation to defendants at no cost when they can prove that they do not have the financial resources to hire an attorney on their own.

The assaults took place outside of Entre Nous, and the bar's owner, Judy Nevers, and disc jockey, Jamie Scott, were among those injured. It is on the basis of their statements that Deschaine was charged.

He reportedly had been drinking in an adjacent bar just prior to the assault, and women who he allegedly accosted said he verbally harassed them, making it clear he knew they were lesbians.

Nevers suffered broken ribs and a bruised arm; Scott's jaw was fractured in the assault.

## Chamber Rejects Gay Money

by Elze

Maine's northernmost gay and lesbian organization was surprised recently when the Caribou Chamber of Commerce returned the group's \$75 donation towards the erection of "Welcome to Caribou" signs at three of the town's entrances.

To encourage civic and service organizations to support the project, which began last summer, the Chamber planned to attach the logos of contributing groups to the bottom of the signs. Supporting businesses and individuals will have their names on a plaque that will hang in the Chamber's office.

Chamber Executive Director Lucinda Hebert, in a letter dated December 22, 1986 to Northern Lambda Nord (NLN), told the Lambs the Chamber had concluded its fundraising effort approximately one month ago. "Our original intent was, and still is, to simply raise the cost of constructing and erecting the three signs, not to make it a fundraiser for the Chamber," Hebert wrote. "We are, therefore, returning your check with our sincere thanks," she concluded.

But, in her column "Chamber Communications" appearing weekly in the *Caribou-Aroostook Republican*, Hebert wrote on 10/15/86, "Plans are to add an additional sign each year, as funds permit, until every entrance to Caribou is covered . . . Contributions for the additional signs will be taken at any time."

The deadline for contributions towards the first three signs was October 31.

Again in her weekly column, this time on 12/10/86, Hebert wrote, "The chamber plans to have identical signs installed at every entrance to Caribou, as funds permit, and participating organizations will be allowed to add their insignia to these additional signs also." Hebert also reported that the Chamber was short \$175 of its \$4,000 goal for the three initial signs.

When contacted by *Our Paper* on January 15, Mike Fitzgerald, the Chamber's president and owner of Fitzgerald Office Supply, said, "My understanding is that all the money had been collected to erect the signs, so there wasn't any need for any further money and there was no slush fund."

When asked if he thought it unusual for an organization raising money to return donations, Fitzgerald said, "I doubt that it's unusual at all." When asked if he thought it good administrative practice, he responded, "I know if someone sends me money in my business, I return it if it isn't my money."

When asked if the Chamber was planning on erecting any additional signs, over and above the three existing ones, Fitzgerald said, "I'm not 100% sure." He then added, "The signs are really not a direct project of the Chamber. We just sort of handle getting them erected, not as a Chamber project."

*continued on page 5*



John Kramer

McCusker — Interview Inside



## Signs of Prejudice

That bigotry and prejudice are involved in the Caribou Chamber of Commerce's rejection of Northern Lambda Nord's donation is obvious.

But what is most shocking is the mean-spiritedness of the Chamber's behavior. In spurning Northern Lambda Nord's generous gesture, the Chamber has dishonored the very principles of community betterment which it claims to uphold. The rudeness and arrogance of the Chamber's action raise feelings of outrage.

But it also raises feelings of profound sadness. The Chamber has lost a wonderful opportunity to build a bridge between Caribou's very active, 7-year-old gay and lesbian organization and the rest of the community. And in refusing to even discuss the matter with Northern Lambda Nord, the Chamber has slammed the door on a chance to begin a dialogue with some very wonderful people.

The loss of such an opportunity is tragic.

Mr. Fitzgerald asked *Our Paper* why we care about what happens in Caribou, Maine. Obviously, such a blatant act of bigotry is news for a gay/lesbian publication.

As members of the human community, we also have a stake in the future, Mr. Fitzgerald. Just like you do. But in our future, we see people striving to understand and respect each other. We see people committed to justice and equality for all. We see people appreciating and valuing one another.

As members of the human community, we have an interest in seeing prejudice and discrimination eradicated, wherever it exists—in South Africa, or Howard Beach, New York, or Montgomery, Alabama, or Caribou, Maine.

We urge the Caribou Chamber of Commerce to sit down with Northern Lambda Nord and begin a dialogue. It is not too late. It is never too late to build those types of bridges. (DE)

## Announcements

The Dog Ear Press, publisher of Maine literature, is now accepting manuscripts for its second annual Maine Novel Award. Deadline for submissions is April 1, 1987. Interested writers must send a self-addressed, stamped envelope for guidelines before submitting manuscripts. Write to Dog Ear Press, 19 Mason St., Brunswick, ME 04011.

There's a womyn's land trust forming in Maine. The idea behind it is to acquire chunks of land of varying sizes, and in various parts of Maine, to protect it from patriarchal exploitation. We are creating spaces for womyn to come and live, visit, play, work, celebrate, heal, and be. Money is already being raised to purchase a large parcel of land in central Maine. We plan to incorporate as a non-profit tax-deductible group. Any woman wanting more information can write to: Weed, 21 Briggs St., Portland, ME 04102, or Chris of coventree, Troy, ME 04987. Please include a s.a.s.e. Donations of womyn energy, ideas, love and money greatly appreciated.

The Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance's Annual Meeting and Celebratory Dinner has been rescheduled for March 14. Originally, the fete was set for February 7, but difficulty in securing a speaker for that date caused the event to be postponed.

Both the meeting and the dinner will

be in Augusta. All MLGPA members as well as other interested members of the community are welcome to attend. Details will be in the next edition of *Our Paper*, or can be had by writing to MLGPA at P.O. Box 108, Yarmouth, Maine 04096.

The February meeting of MLGPA will take place on the 7th at All Soul's Church in Augusta, beginning at 1 p.m.

Northern Lambda Nord is celebrating its 7th anniversary with a party on Valentine's Day, February 14, 1987. "Red Hearts - Pink Triangles" is theme for the event which will begin at 8 p.m. in the Caribou Country Club, located on Route 161 (the road to New Sweden and Fort Kent) two miles from Caribou. Everyone is invited to this celebration which will include hors d'oeuvres, cash bar, and \$150 in door prizes. Free billeting is available for out-of-town guests, and admission is \$2 for NLN members, \$3 for guests from "away", and \$6 for guests from NLN's four-county region (Aroostook, plus Madawaska, Victoria, and Carleton Counties in New Brunswick).

For more information, call NLN's Lesbian-Gay Phonenumber - 498-2088 - staffed Wednesdays, 7-9 p.m.; leave a message at other times.

## Where Have All the Bookstores Gone?

by Kathryn Baptista

On December 27, Our Books became the second progressive bookstore in Portland to close its doors for good in 1986. I was particularly stricken by this because I used to own the first that closed, Wise Women Books.

Since I closed my store a number of things have happened. Many people have mourned its passing, and many have asked in a rather hushed, tragic voice, "So what are you doing now?" Quite a few have asked what happened.

There were quite a few factors in my choosing to close the store, the biggest being that the financial situation was unlikely to get better. I was also burned out, which was directly connected to the first.

The thing I missed first about not having Wise Woman was that there was no longer a feminist bookstore in town. There was material in the store that one couldn't find anywhere else. And, more importantly, there were resources there that weren't anywhere else. It was a place for women new to Portland to connect with others. It was a place with a very active bulletin

board with information and requests. It housed three women's businesses. It held dozens of meetings and workshops.

Now Our Books is closed too, and that's it for the really progressive alternative bookstores in Portland. Our Books provided a place to buy gay and lesbian and feminist books, a place to get information, a place for the *Our Paper* collective to meet, and a place to pick up the paper when it was done.

We're going to miss these places. To sustain the energy for the work we do, we need to have these places that nurture us.

I think I've been asked over and over in the last few months if I think Portland, small as it is, can support an alternative bookstore, and I always answer, "Yes, I just don't know if it will. Many people don't understand how important it is to support places like bookstores and small, progressive businesses until we lose them."

### PURPOSE

OUR PAPER is published monthly by the OUR PAPER Collective, P.O. Box 10744, Portland, Maine 04104. The purpose of OUR PAPER is to serve as a voice for lesbians and gay men in Maine. We wish the newspaper to be a source of information, support and affirmation, and a vehicle for celebration, by and for members of the lesbian and gay men's communities. We want the paper to reflect our diversity as well.

### EDITORIAL POLICY

We will consider for publication any material that broadens our understanding of our lifestyles and of each other. Views and opinions appearing in the paper are those of the authors only.

We request that all material submitted be signed and include an address and/or phone number so we can contact the author if editorial revisions need to be considered. We reserve the right to edit unsigned material as necessary. Within the pages of the newspaper, articles can appear anonymously, upon request, and strict confidentiality will be observed. No revisions or rejections of signed material will occur without dialogue with the author.

Even though our editorials are initiated, they represent the opinion of all collective members.

We welcome and encourage all our readers to submit material for publication and to share your comments, criticisms and positive feelings with us. Remember, OUR PAPER is Your Paper!!! Deadline for each issue is the 10th of the month.

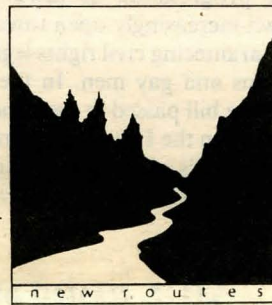
### SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions are \$12 for one year (12 issues), \$20 for two years, and \$30 for three years. Make checks payable to "OUR PAPER". All submissions and correspondence should be sent to OUR PAPER, P.O. Box 10744, Portland, Maine 04104.

### OUR PAPER COLLECTIVE

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## We're Official!

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**The official *Our Paper* office is located at 9 Deering Street**

(with the Feminist Spiritual Community office) and we're so excited about its existence that we want all of you (well, maybe not all at once) to come and see us.

**We're having an Open House on February 17,**

which is the same date as our annual meeting.

All are welcome to drop by for a look around, a bite to eat and some general conviviality.

It will be an opportunity for you to tell us what you think about *Our Paper*, and to help us celebrate our new digs.

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## Body Politic to cease publishing

The *Body Politic*, a Canadian gay/lesbian newspaper that has been published in Toronto by the collective of Pink Triangle Press for the past 15 years, will cease publication this month.

Financial problems prompted the collective to decide to suspend publication. The paid staff recently was reduced to five from seven, and according to collective member Gerald Hannon, that was not sufficient to ease money woes.

"Even by the paper's historical standards the strain was debilitating," he said. "A full account of the problems will appear in the final issue."

The newspaper is a handsomely designed publication in the style of a magazine. Its bread-and-butter issues have been politics — Canadian, American and international.

The Pink Triangle Press collective also publishes a local publication called *Xtra*, and it will continue to do so. New projects, including another national/international publication, reportedly are being considered.

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## March plans continuing

Organizers of a national lesbian/gay rights march in Washington, D.C. next fall are debating the politics of the demonstration as planning continues.

Among the issues being debated are whether organizing should be done primarily on the local or national level, if the march should be single- or multi-issue and what degree of militance the march should exude.

The local/national organizing question has come up as a Los Angeles-based group has argued that attempting to attract people through a national appeal will pull only the most dedicated activists out of their own communities and away from the local issues that demand their attention. The group, called the Lavender Left, believes organizing on the local level will be effective in drawing participants to the march and in building local communities. Others believe that only a full-scale national effort will be effective if the march is to be well-organized and well-attended.

The debate about whether the focus should be solely on lesbian/gay rights or on a broad range of progressive issues also has divided organizers. Some activists feel that with the recent assaults on the rights of lesbians and gay men, the march must be clearly about the need for our civil rights and that the injection of any other issues will take away from the strength of the call for rights. Others feel it is wrongheaded to isolate lesbian/gay rights away from other progressive issues, such as government intervention in Central America and in Third World countries. It is by stressing the interconnections of oppressions that a broad-based coalition of believers will gather, they say, and it is such a group that will be most effective in creating change.

The militance issue may not be settled for a while. The question is whether civil disobedience will be planned and possibly coordinated with police, or whether it will be spontaneous. Backers of spontaneity say officially sanctioned civil disobedience is a contradiction in terms, and believe only strong, creative protest will draw attention to the issues.

## Charges dismissed against three in So. Africa trial

Charges have been dropped against three of the 22 black leaders charged with treason in a trial that has been going on in South Africa for the past 11 months. On November 27, charges were dismissed against three after it was determined that no evidence of any wrongdoing on their part had been presented. Bail was granted to six others at the same time.

One of the 22 involved in the case is a gay activist Simon Nkoli, and though he was not among those set free or released on bail, his supporters heralded the ruling as the first sign that the government's case is self-destructing.

The activists, known as the Vaal 22, were charged with conspiring to create disturbances in 1984 that would undermine government authority. Nkoli and many of the others have been leaders in the fight against apartheid.

The Gay Association of South Africa (GASA) has been criticized for failing to support Nkoli and agitate for his cause, and it reportedly has taken steps recently to be more public in its opposition to apartheid. In a resolution adopted this fall, GASA said it was grateful to Nkoli "for his support in respect to the aims of the association and in particular for his steadfast support regarding membership to the International Lesbian and Gay Association (ILGA); and that such gratitude is expressed with emphasis on the role he has played to bring elements of discrimination on every level to the attention of the association, thereby contributing to a unity; and the association accordingly regrets any misunderstanding that has arisen regarding its previous attitude toward Simon and tenders its apology if this attitude has in any way contributed to such misunderstanding or caused him distress."

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## ACLU backs need for lesbian/ gay marriage laws

The need for legal recognition of same sex relationships has been given a backing by the American Civil Liberties Union. In October, the ACLU's national board adopted a policy statement calling for legal recognition of lesbian and gay relationships. The group is now expected to increase its efforts to convince lawmakers to change language that only legitimizes relationships between partners of the opposite gender. Among the benefits that lesbians and gay men could gain would be income tax advantages, insurance benefits and next-of-kin rights.

The ACLU recently has been involved in a case involving the latter issue — the battle of lesbian Karen Thompson to be allowed to visit her lover, Sharon Kowalski, who is disabled and currently under the guardianship of her father.

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## Sodomy laws being challenged

Sodomy laws in several states have come under judicial fire recently as impermissible infringements on the constitutional right to privacy.

In Minnesota, a county district judge ruled on Dec. 1 that the state's sodomy law, which makes consensual oral or anal sex between gay or straight people a gross misdemeanor, violates privacy guarantees. Judge Pamela Alexander's ruling is ex-

pected to be appealed to the Minnesota Supreme Court. It was based only on the state constitution, so probably will not be appealed to federal court.

In Kentucky, a county judge ruled that the state's sodomy law was unconstitutional for the same reason — that it violated individuals' rights to privacy.

"The (sodomy) statute seeks to regulate the most profoundly private conduct impermissibly invading the privacy of the citizens," Judge Lewis Paisley of the Fayette District said in his ruling. He based his ruling on the state constitution, like Judge Alexander in Minnesota, not drawing on federal constitutional language at all.

In a related matter, the U.S. Supreme Court refused to hear an appeal of an Oklahoma court decision that would eliminate that state's sodomy law. The ruling, however, applies only to acts by heterosexuals. The court left open the question of whether the law would be invalid if a case arose involving gays.

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## Latin American lesbians to meet

Lesbians in Latin America are planning their first regionwide conference to discuss the situation within various countries and to seek mutual answers to common oppression.

To be held in Mexico City three days before the annual Latinamerican Feminist Meeting and resume once that conference is over, the goal of the lesbian gathering is to create a place for dialogue among Latinamerican, Caribbean and Chicana lesbians. Among the specific goals outlined by organizers are:

- To create a system of support and solidarity for lesbian victims of government and/or institutional oppression (psychiatric hospitals, schools, religions, political parties, police actions, etc.)
- To promote Lesbian Feminist art, science ... politics.
- To build an international Latinamerican, Caribbean and Chicana Lesbian Feminist political movement ... (and) to spin off a Lesbian Feminist movement that binds together the third world on a worldwide basis.

For more information or to make suggestions to conference organizers, write to L.A.L., Apartado Aereo, 22834, 1400 Mexico, D.F. Mexico.

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## Anti-defamation group wins battles

The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation has won a couple of battles in the war against irresponsible media characterization of lesbians and gay men. Perhaps its most significant victory was

in eliciting from conservative writer William F. Buckley Jr. a retraction of his proposal that people diagnosed as having AIDS should be tattooed to warn sexual partners and common needle users. Buckley publicly retracted that proposal on ABC-TV's *Nightline* program several weeks after a GLAAD-sponsored street demonstration and a meeting with GLAAD representatives who were outraged by the proposal.

GLAAD representatives drew a connection between Buckley's plan and the Nazis' tattooing of Jews, gays and others during World War Two, but Buckley apparently could not see the connection. He refused to admit "the basic inhumanity of tattooing human beings for any reason," according to GLAAD, but he eventually conceded that it would be "an impolitic solution" and "probably impractical."

A few weeks later he retracted the idea publicly. It had been advanced at first in his column in the *New York Times* on March 18, 1986.

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(Among the sources for information in this month's Global Gayzette were Gay Community News and The Body Politic. It was compiled by Brenda Buchanan.)

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## The "Modern Problem" of Herpes- Part Two

by R.J. Bass

(Last month's column described herpes, its symptoms, transmission and complications. This month's column will cover diagnosis, treatment, prevention, social and emotional issues, and resources.)

The herpes diagnosis is often made on the basis of the person's symptoms and history, and the typical appearance of the sores. Sometimes, herpes can be detected on a Pap smear. Also, the sore can provide some definite diagnosis, but the test is expensive and time-consuming. (In Maine, the cultures are often transported by mail to the state lab, yielding a higher rate of false negative tests.) Material scraped from the sore may also be used to prepare a specially-stained microscope slide, called a Tzanck test. Most clinicians also draw blood for a syphilis test, just to make sure the sore is not syphilitic chancre.

Because herpes is able to lie dormant in nerve cells, it can't be cured. Most treatment, therefore, is aimed at relieving discomfort and preventing bacterial infection. The sores should be kept clean and dry. Ice or moist tea bags can be applied to ease the pain. Ointments and salves are not recommended because they can spread the virus. (Cortisone creams can actually delay healing.) Wearing loose clothing and avoiding intercourse is helpful. To ease painful urination, a person can pee while sitting in warm bathwater, or under the shower. In severe cases, painkillers may be prescribed.

A recently developed treatment is the prescription drug acyclovir, sold under the brand name Zovirax. Acyclovir ointment can help the sores heal more quickly, but it is most effective only during the initial outbreak. Oral acyclovir, in pill form, has

been shown to ease the symptoms of flare-ups, even totally suppressing recurrences, in some cases. However, when the person stops taking the acyclovir, recurrences return.

Visualization, acupuncture, and nutritional therapies, such as boosting the intake of amino acid lysine, are also thought to provide some relief and suppress flare-ups.

Intravenous acyclovir is used to treat herpes in people who are immunocompromised due to organ transplant, AIDS, cancer therapy, etc.

In discussing herpes prevention, we are really talking about two kinds of prevention — prevention of recurrences in people who already have herpes, and prevention of transmission of uninfected people.

Other than permanently taking acyclovir (the long-term effects of which are unknown), stress-reduction and maintenance of good health care are most effective. Proper diet, exercise, rest, and relaxation play an important role. Avoiding sunburn and other skin irritation may help prevent recurrences, too. It is advised that people decrease their intake of alcoholic beverages and not smoke. Visualization and medication may also prevent recurrences.

Preventing the spread of herpes to others is not difficult, if a person with herpes and her/his sex partners use common sense. It is absolutely essential that people who have herpes inform their sex partners before they actually have sexual contact. Not all responsibility for this lies on those who have herpes. All of us should be protecting ourselves from sexually transmitted infections. Condoms and spermicidal foam will provide some protection against the transmission of herpes. People who have sex with others whom they may not know very well should insist on the use of con-

doms and should carry a supply with them.

For lesbians, condoms are not the answer. Good communication, including a discussion of health, should preclude sexual contact with new partners. If you do not know a woman very well, or are unsure about her health status (and you still want to make love with her), avoid oral sex, and don't touch your mouth, eyes, or genitals after touching her genitals, unless you wash your hands first.

If you are a person who has herpes, it may be best to avoid sexual contact entirely, *but only during outbreaks.*

People with cold sores should not touch babies, and when sores are present, they should not kiss others. They should also be sure to not share eating utensils, drinking glasses, and toothbrushes. Some experts suggest the people who have either oral or genital herpes shouldn't share towels with others.

If a woman with herpes is pregnant, she must inform her prenatal care provider. Usually, frequent Pap smears are taken as the pregnancy proceeds. If, in the final weeks or days before birth, there are no signs of an outbreak, a normal (vaginal) delivery can occur. If there are any signs of herpes, it is recommended that the child be delivered surgically by caesarean section. This avoids the transmission of herpes to the newborn. (In infants, herpes leads to severe brain damage and in half of all cases, death.)

Because herpes, like AIDS, carries a deep social stigma and psychological stress, it is important to openly discuss the emotional effects of having herpes.

A diagnosis of herpes often triggers feelings of guilt and low self-esteem — "What did I do to deserve this?" or "This is what I get for fooling around." These attitudes are, unfortunately, encouraged by society at large. This is because herpes, like many

other incurable diseases, appears to us as a mystery, and therefore carries moral values. We all need to be educated out of our ignorance.

Fears of disclosure and rejection are major reasons people don't talk about sex. For people with herpes, these fears can intensify to the point where some people decide to give up sex, or to lie and avoid telling sex partners about the herpes. Neither course of action is wise, though both are understandable. As AIDS activists are pointing out, everybody needs to take responsibility for their own health and safety, as well as for the common good. We can all practice "safe sex" and healthy living instead of expecting the person with herpes to take all the responsibility.

Changing old habits and learning new ones can be difficult, but communicating about sex is like any other skill; once you learn how to do it, it becomes easier as time goes on.

In some places, there are support groups for people with herpes. In Maine, such support groups sometimes advertise in *Maine Times* or other papers, usually in the "Personals." The local family planning and STD clinics can also help you start or locate a herpes support group. To find the clinic nearest you, call the STD Control Program in Augusta, at 289-3747.

There is an excellent national organization for people with herpes and those who are interested and concerned. It is the Herpes Resource Center, P.O. Box 100, Palo Alto, California 94302. An affiliated program run by the American Social Health Association is called HELP, which provides assistance and resources for people with herpes. The address is ASHA/HELP, 260 Sheridan Avenue, Palo Alto, California 94306.

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# Legislature

continued from page 1

AIDS-related work.

The remaining aspect of the bill would eliminate the prescription requirement for sterile needles and syringes that exists in Maine. Graham said the requirement "doesn't effectively prevent IV drug abuse," and may encourage the spread of AIDS because it makes users more likely to share needles.

The AIDS Advisory Committee is not sure yet what bills it will sponsor. Rep. Charlene Rydell said ideally, the committee would like to work with various state departments on AIDS-related provisions in their own legislative packages. Thus far, only the Bureau of Health has met with the committee to go over its agenda, however.

Rydell said it may not happen this year, but eventually other departments, such as education and corrections, will probably work with the committee. For now, any AIDS-related issues tied to those departments will probably be raised by the committee itself.

Rydell said one way or another, a bill will be filed to seek more money for client support services. That may be part of the Bureau of Health's package, but if not, the committee will sponsor it, she said.

The need for additional support services has become obvious in the past year, especially in the Portland area, where the greatest concentration of people with AIDS live.

## "The implication," Graham said, "is that we'll have to have good sex education at the grade school level."

Rydell said the advisory group will be an active participant when the Bureau of Health presents its budget request to the Appropriations Committee.

### Women's issues

The Women's Legislative Agenda Coalition (WLAC) will be submitting a number of proposals that fall into three categories—personal safety, health care and economic security.

Mimi Marchev of the Maine Women's Lobby said the theme of WLAC's legislative package is "strengthening Maine's families."

Personal safety bills include three submitted by the coalition of domestic violence projects, of which there are nine in the state. One would eliminate the mandatory mediation provision for divorce cases when domestic violence is involved. Currently, divorce mediation is required in all cases when children are involved. That presupposes an equal power relationship between the partners, something that is necessarily missing in relationships where violence is present.

The other two bills seek funding for a statewide community response program and for expanded services for women and children.

The rape coalition, which represents nine centers in Maine, is seeking \$150,000

to expand services to the point where there will be at least one full-time person at each center. The other bill will remove the current legal protection for those who assault "voluntarily social companions," i.e., dates. In the 112th session, the legislature removed the provision that exempted marital rape, and this is the next step, Marchev said.

"Now, you can't rape your wife but you can rape your date," she said.

Another personal safety bill seeks \$88,700 for Looking Up, a program for incest survivors.

## The Women's Lobby will be active in its support of the civil rights bill and the bill to amend the harassment laws.

A health care bill seeks \$7 million for teenage pregnancy prevention. It proposes the money be spent in a wide variety of ways—on education, services, school-based clinics and job training, to name some.

Another health care bill is not being presented by WLAC but by the Maine Women's Lobby. It seeks a guarantee of reproductive choice for all women by making Medicaid funding available for abortions and for voluntary sterilization for women and men between the ages of 18 and 20. (Currently, Medicaid will pay for sterilization for those 21 and older, but not for people between 18 and 20.)

Marchev likened the Medicaid abortion bill to the lesbian/gay rights bill, saying it runs into strong opposition from those who see it as a moral issue every time it is introduced. Like the lesbian/gay rights bill, she said, it is important to keep bringing it back, because support increases

every time.

WLAC is not backing that bill because all of its 26 members don't support it. Similarly, WLAC isn't a supporter of the lesbian/gay civil rights bill, though most of the members do support that measure.

Marchev said the Women's Lobby will be active in its support of the civil rights bill and the bill to amend the harassment laws.

Included among the economic security measures are bills to make Social Security payments more equitable when men go into nursing homes, leaving their wives in the community, to give tax credits to those who care for an elderly person who is unable to live alone, and to remove the age limit for apprenticeship programs. The latter is necessary because many programs, especially those for jobs in the trades, have age limits that bar women who are seeking a second career, keeping such women ineligible for training for non-traditional jobs that often pay well.

There also will be several child care bills introduced this session. One aims to increase the availability of child care by establishing a grant program with \$1.2 million that will support expanded and innovative programs. The other aim of that bill is to improve the quality of child care available in Maine by funding more training, and by raising salaries for those working in state programs.

Another child care bill will give the

Office of Child Care Coordination \$25,000 to work with businesses that are committed to providing child care alternatives for their employees.

Other bills will seek more money for the Displaced Homemakers' Project, job training for AFDC recipients, greater AFDC benefit payments and a special needs fund so that AFDC families will be able to pay for winter clothing and excess housing costs.

Generally, Marchev is optimistic about the chances for passage of bills that aim to help women. She said gains have been

steady in recent years, and she has high hopes that newly-elected Governor John McKernan will be open-minded. He has voiced support for child care proposals already, she said, indicating he realizes what women in need of child care always have known—it is an economic issue.

## Chamber

continued from page 1

According to Hebert's newspaper articles, the project was a Chamber campaign. Hebert wrote that the Chamber planned to have signs erected at all entrances to the town and that the Chamber had established a welcome sign committee. And, on January 19, Hebert told *Our Paper* the Chamber is responsible for ongoing maintenance of the signs.

When asked if any other money was returned, Fitzgerald said, "There was no money received other than that donation after the deadline of October 31." He then said, "That may not be true," and added, "but by the time the money was received from Northern Lambda Nord, all the money had been collected. There

was no other money to return. There wasn't any other money to return except what Northern Lambda Nord donated."

Hebert told *Our Paper* that only Northern Lambda Nord's donation was received after the October 31 deadline. However, according to Dick Harrison, who co-founded Northern Lambda Nord in 1980, the Kiwanis Club's donation was received after October 31. Hebert told *Our Paper* that the Kiwanis Club's money came in after the deadline, but that the donation was pledged prior to the cutoff date. However, in her December 10 column, Hebert listed all the service clubs contributing to the campaign. The Kiwanis Club did not appear in the list.

Upon receipt of the letter, Harrison requested a meeting with representatives of the Chamber. He also requested that NLN be included in the Chamber's published list of Caribou-area organizations, the second time he has made that request.

Hebert rejected the offer to meet. In response to NLN's request to appear on the Chamber's list of clubs, Hebert wrote, "(That) list is compiled and maintained in house and is utilized internally for our own purposes."

"Whether it's an in-house list or not is irrelevant," Harrison told *Our Paper*. "We should be on it, whether it's an internal list or a public list, because we're here and we've been here for seven years as an organization."

The Lambs are currently awaiting a reply to their most recent letter in which they asked if contributions from NLN for any future fundraising efforts will be welcome, and if the Chamber will accept paid advertising from NLN in the 1987 Winter Carnival Booklet.

In 1983, the Lambs advertised in the booklet, but their ad was rejected the following year.

"We're understandably upset," said Harrison. "We are just as much a part of this community as anyone."

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## Trying To Go Somewhere Else

### An Interview with Dancer, Teacher, Choreographer Daniel McCusker

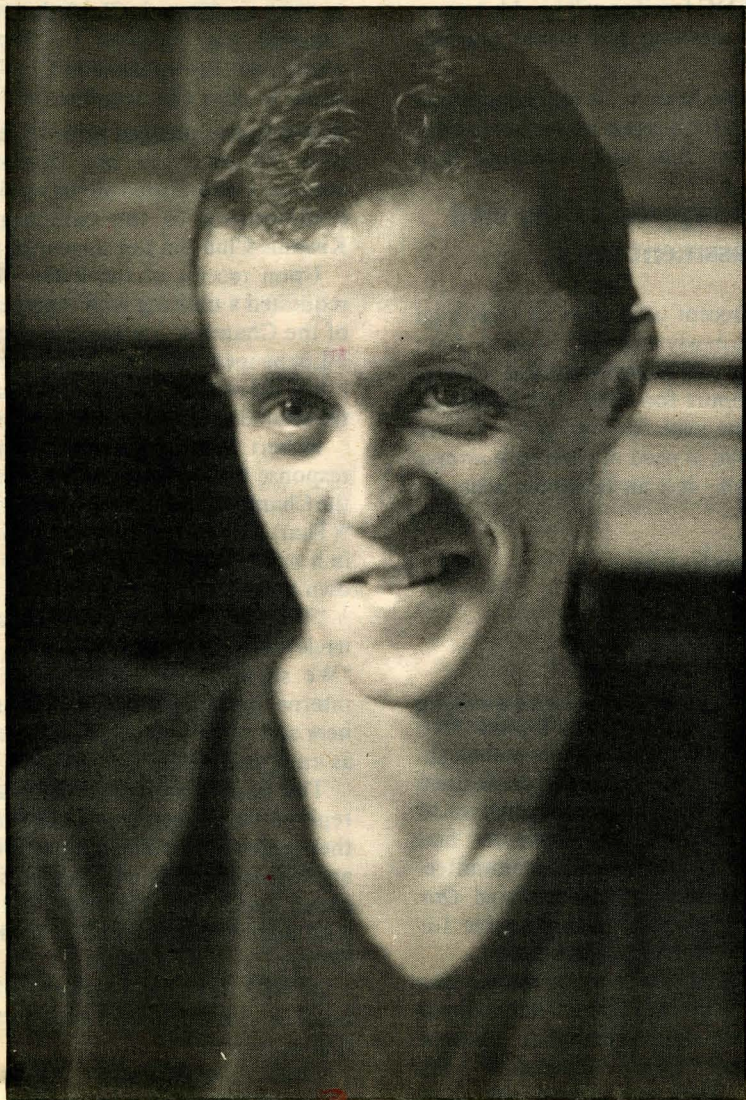


photo: John Kramer

by Fred Berger

For the past two years Daniel McCusker has been the Artistic Director of the Ram Island Dance Company at the Dance Center of the Portland Performing Arts Center. He moved here from New York City to take over that position. In the following interview Daniel discusses his work with Ram Island and gives his views on dance and the arts in Portland.

#### What does the position of Artistic Director involve?

I'm involved first of all with choreographing pieces of my own, and also with making choices of other repertory pieces that we perform. I also teach in the school — advanced modern and ballet to adults and children. I'm also involved with other things the Dance Center does. It's not just dancing. There's a fair amount of administrative stuff. I select people to teach the classes and help publicize them. I'm the person the other teachers come to if they have problems, then I deal with the Managing Director, Mark Paquette.

#### How much of your time is spent in teaching?

It varies. Right now I teach five classes a week. I teach dances to people as well. Teaching a dance class takes a lot of preparation. I have to get warmed up and I have to prepare the class. So an hour and forty-five minute class might take two hours of work before it.

Right now I'm making a piece for some students at Bates College. I go there twice a week and I'm teaching a class at Emerson College in Boston once a week.

#### What about rehearsing and working on your own pieces?

It depends on if we're in a rehearsal period. Usually we rehearse for four hours at a time five days a week. So generally I teach a class, then take a break, then rehearse for four hours, then teach or do something else in the evening.

#### How free are you to determine what dances you perform?

Ultimately the choices for the repertory are mine. I make my choices on what I think the audience is willing to see. For ex-

ample, I wouldn't do a whole program of dancers in silence because I don't think the audience in Portland is ready for a program like that. They wouldn't be interested. I'll compromise, for example, by putting one piece in silence in the program.

Being here in Portland at Ram Island is different than having my own company in New York. I'm much more aware of the fact that it's a community resource. In New York there are lots of dance companies, lots of places for people to go to see different kinds of dance. That's not an opportunity here so I feel that it's my responsibility to make sure that there is a variety of things that will appeal to a variety of people. There may sometimes be pieces I wouldn't normally have thought of that are not the style of dance that I am interested in. It's been very interesting to be in that position because I want to make choices that still reflect my interests, that support an aesthetic that I feel is important. So far it has worked out.

**Being here in Portland at Ram Island is different than having my own company in New York. I'm much more aware of the fact that it's a community resource.**

#### How do you judge what people are interested in?

It's hard to judge. I can only judge it on the basis of what I see getting produced in Portland and audience responses to that.

#### Do you get much feedback?

There's a fair amount of feedback. There's much more feedback here from strangers than there is in New York. In New York people will talk to you about your work if they loved it, but not if they're critical. Here there's a lot more of both. They talk to you if they liked it or if they didn't like it.

#### What about dance criticism?

Aside from June Vail, there's not anyone who writes about dance in a way that is more than just a news story. There aren't really venues for people to write serious criticism about dance in Portland. The *Press Herald* isn't interested in a serious article about anything, so I'm not surprised that they're not interested in a serious article about dance. People can't write serious articles because they won't get published. The only place that can happen is *The Maine Times* but even there the articles are edited mercilessly.

#### What was your training in dance?

I didn't really start dancing until I was in college. I had tap classes as a child. That was purely a fluke. I went to a Catholic grammar school that did not have a gym program, so they had a tap dancer come in and give tap classes. I had tap classes every week for about six years and then I didn't do any sort of dance until college. As a sophomore I took ballet classes. After my third year I started taking modern classes. After college I concentrated on ballet classes for a lot of years. In the first few years I was taking two or three classes a day for six days a week because I had a lot of time to make up.

#### Were you interested in dance before that?

I really didn't know anything about it. I didn't come from a family that ever exposed me to dance in any way, shape or form. I had never seen a live dance performance until I was a freshman in college. Then I started to go often.

In college I was very interested in what was going on in the visual arts. A lot of people I knew were interested in people who were breaking down the barriers in art. A lot of time that meant people experimenting in movement as well as continuing their careers as painters or sculptors. I got very interested in that experimentation and did a lot of improvisation. It was through improvisation that I got interested in dance technique. That's pretty unusual. It usually goes the other way.

#### Where did you go to college?

It was called the College at Lincoln Center. It was a part of Fordham University. It was a brand new school which started out to be an experimental urban college. I did things like work in storefronts in the city and run recreation programs for kids in housing projects around Lincoln Center. I enjoyed it very much.

#### What lead you to Portland? What were you doing before you came here?

The specific thing that lead me to Portland was that I was offered the job here. I was looking for things to do outside of New York. In New York I had danced with the Lucinda Childs company

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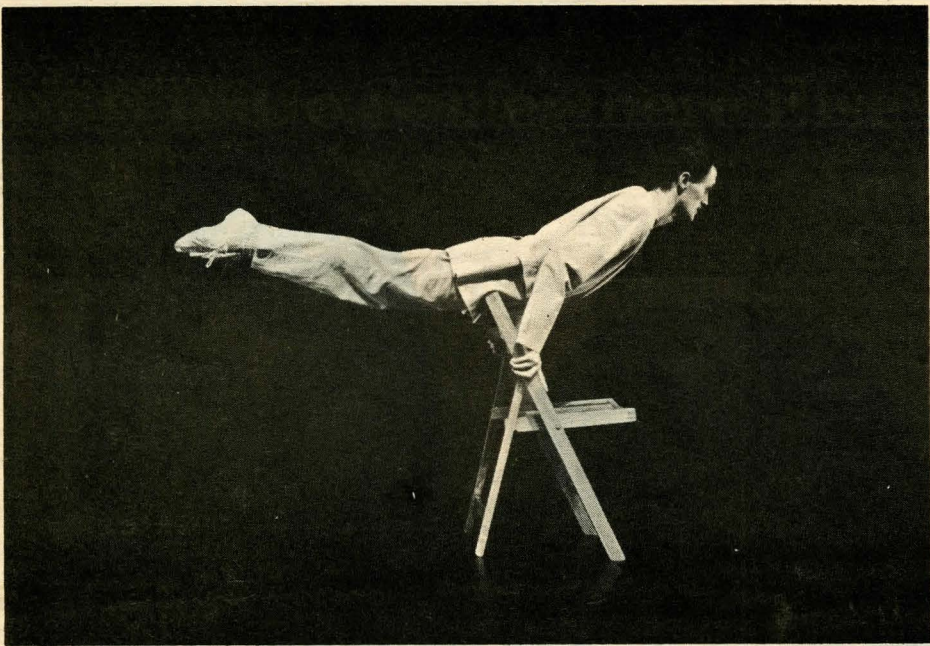


photo: John Kramer

from 1977 to January of 1984 and I had been doing choreography of my own. I left Lucinda's company with the idea that I was going to focus on my own choreography.

In the last year I was in New York I had taught at Hunter College and I was teaching children for the New York School of Circus Arts, the Big Apple Circus. I was teaching ballet to boys in East Harlem.

I was basically trying to go somewhere else. I grew up in New York and lived there my whole life. Between touring with Lucinda's company and then starting to do work of my own it just seemed to me that there were more opportunities for me outside of New York. I was always going out of town to do something.

#### Are you glad you came here?

There are a lot of things about Portland that I like and they are the reasons I came here. I wanted to have the opportunity to have the outdoors nearby, to drive fifteen minutes and be at the beach. Those things I really like, although I'm so busy I can't utilize the resources a lot of the time.

There are things that I miss very much about New York that just don't exist here. In New York it was very much a part of my routine that I went on a regular basis to museums and to galleries. There was a lot more performing to see. I did a fair amount of looking at other people's work and here there's not a lot of opportunity for that. It's a real tradeoff.

In New York there is a sense that lots of things are a possibility. At the Dance Center one would get the impression that everyone in Portland is in their 30's, newly married with a baby, and buying their first home.

**I had tap classes as a child. That was purely a fluke. I went to a Catholic grammar school that did not have a gym program, so they had a tap dancer come in and give tap classes.**

#### Are you talking about the people you teach in the classes?

Yes, the people I teach in the classes and the people I work with as well.

#### Have you had the opportunities in terms of your work that you thought you'd have?

Pretty much. It's difficult to be trying to promote yourself in the national dance

market as a company from Portland, Maine. That's a fact. But I also feel we've been doing some things I've been interested in doing.

#### Where does being gay fit into what you do? Is there any issue at all? Do people assume that dancers are gay?

I think maybe people assume that. I'm not sure. Lots of dancers are not gay. Of course it's true that many dancers are gay, both men and women.

In terms of people being gay or straight or whatever...I feel like I deal with that in my dances in terms of presenting a range of possible ways for people to connect. My dances are not dances about boys and girls. It's not an accident that women relate to women and men relate to men and men to women, etc. That's a very conscious choice that I always make. I don't perceive it as a schtick that I'm trying to drum into people's heads necessarily, but I'm always trying to present other ways for people to relate in my dances. I think it's important for people to see that in a very unsensationalized way. It's a matter of fact in my dances. The spotlight doesn't come on the woman dancing with the woman or the man dancing with the man. It's woven into the normal course of events.

#### Has anybody made an issue of this aspect of your dances?

The only way it's ever come up has been in a very positive way. All kinds of people seem to respond very positively to that. It's possible that people respond negatively but don't tell me. So far I've gotten very positive responses.

#### Aren't there companies doing dances with people of the same sex dancing together in a more sexual way, really trying to break barriers?

I suppose there are. For example, a friend of mine named Yohanna Boyce is a choreographer in New York — who is straight — who recently did a piece for two of the women in her company who are lovers. It's very explicitly about their rela-

tionship. It's verbal as well as movement. Yet it's very unsensationalized.

There have been performances in New York such as "Dancing For Our Lives," a benefit for AIDS, which was mostly gay choreographers presenting some pieces which dealt very expressly with gay issues. There was a piece recently by Ishmael Houston-Jones with all men which was explicitly about men — their relationships sexual and otherwise — and about AIDS.

I don't respond very well myself to pieces which are generally sensationalistic. They have to be really spectacular to break through, to go someplace that is new. I don't see it happening very often so I basically feel that the sensationalistic approach doesn't work very well.

**My dances are not dances about boys and girls. It's not an accident that women relate to women and men relate to men and men to women, etc. That's a very conscious choice that I always make.**

#### What do you think of the gay community in Portland?

I feel like I don't have much perception of the gay community in Portland. I don't feel like I've met a lot of it. In New York I had much more of a sense of there being a gay community than I have in Portland.

I don't see many separate communities here. One thing that's surprising and in some ways frustrating is that I don't really feel that there's an "arts community" here. It's very hard to meet other kinds of artists. This fall I took a course at the Portland Museum of Art which gave me the opportunity to meet other kinds of people. In New York you have a sense that there is a wider arts audience. Not only dancers went to see dance performances — aside from the general public. Musicians went, visual artists went. I miss that.

#### What direction do you see Ram Island going in?

I'm not really sure about the direction of the company. If certain opportunities don't come our way, I may not stay here. There are certain things that I want to do that I may not be able to do here. To be more specific...for example, The Berkshire Ballet company, which is a regional ballet company, has been talking

to me about the possibility of doing a piece for them and that really interests me. I'd have the opportunity to work with a fair number of very well-trained dancers. It's difficult to envision that happening here with Ram Island — to find a pool of fourteen well-trained dancers. That's only because you can't live on air and there just aren't that many people who are able to devote themselves to dancing in Portland. There's lots of people who are talented and who are interested but they also have to make a living and the Dance Center can't sustain them.

I would like to be in a situation where I could say to fifteen people, you're going to be on salary for this many weeks and you're going to earn a decent living for those weeks, and proceed from there. As

it is there are seven or eight people who I've been working with on a consistent basis, then there are other people I draw on from the community. A lot of people work for free and I'm trying to fit their jobs and their schedules around my rehearsal schedule. It doesn't make for the best working conditions.

I don't know how committed the community at large is to supporting a "professional" dance company in the way that a professional dance company needs to exist, meaning that people need to know that they are going to work for a specific amount of time and be paid a decent wage. I really don't know if there's room for that in Portland. It's not happening in lots of big cities, so why should it happen in a small city?

#### What's coming up with Ram Island in the near future?

We have a spring season the first week in April. We'll probably be doing a piece of Lucinda Childs' which is a quartet in silence and we'll probably be doing a solo of Doris Humphrey's, and I'm working on a new piece to music by Aaron Copeland. I'm also working with a group of twenty-two at Bates College. I think that piece is going to be presented as part of our spring session.

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## Concerts to Feature Nationally Known Women Artists

by Brenda Buchanan

A series of concerts featuring nationally known feminist performers will occur in Portland in the coming months, as Pine Cone Productions, the group that was instrumental in bringing Cris Williamson and Tret Fure to Portland last spring, is active again.

The series will begin Saturday, Feb. 21 when Farley & Hood perform at the First Parish Unitarian Church, 425 Congress St., Portland. On March 27, Lucie Blue Tremble will also appear. And in late April or early May, Deidre McCalla is expected to appear, though details are not firm and the site may be different.

A fourth concert, possibly featuring a nationally known performer or showcasing local talent is planned as well.

Pine Cone Productions is a loosely-knit group of women who, one of its members said recently, "have come together in the interest of bringing women's music to Maine."

The Cris Williamson-Tret Fure show was the first the Pine Cone Productions produced, and it took a while for the group to reflect on that experience and decide whether it wanted to bring other performers to Maine. When winter arrived and the cultural calendar showed many blank pages, it was decided that an effort should be made. They began to think big, and decided that a series of concerts should be launched.

The concerts will benefit the Women's Community Project, as did last spring's show, and women who are interested in helping with the series are encouraged to contact Pine Cone Productions at 772-2518. Similarly, those with ideas for future concerts should call or write to Pine Cone Productions through the W.C.P. at P.O. Box 3733, Portland, ME 04104.

Tickets for Farley & Hood are \$8.00 each/general admission and are on sale at the following locations in Portland at: Amadeus, The Whole Grocer, Entre Nous and Walkabout; in Brunswick at Macbean's Music.

Tickets can still be purchased the night of the show when the doors open at 7 p.m. The church is handicap accessible and there will be interpreting for the hearing impaired, as well as refreshments available for all. Look for more information on the following upcoming Concert Series or for more information call 772-2318.

### Performer Profiles

#### Farley & Hood

Janet Hood and Susan Farley are a Boston-area duo that has won raves for their interpretations of songs in a variety of styles — blues, jazz, rock, gospel and pop. They have regular gigs at Ryles, a Cambridge club where people go to hear the music, not to have it serve as a backdrop for their conversation.

Hood was half of Jade and Sarsaparilla, one of the pioneer women's bands in this country. She is an accomplished pianist with an earthy voice that is complemented by the virtuosic ability of her partner. Farley is an actress as well as a singer, and her stage presence is as enjoyable as her voice, observers say.

In a review published this fall in *Sojourner*, an enthusiastic critic wrote, "I'm almost afraid that somebody's going to hear them, hear the power of their arrangements, hear their precision, hear those rich voices rocking and crooning and soaring, and pull them right out of Ryles and onto plastic and tape and a big, big stage somewhere. We'll all be lucky to be able to say, 'I heard them when...'"

#### Lucie Blue Tremblay

Olivia recording artist Lucie Blue Tremblay has drawn acclaim in her native Canada and in cities across the U.S. with her bilingual singing and multi-instrumental finesse.

She swept the honors at the 16th Annual Granby Song Festival in Granby, Quebec, and since has released her first album, *Lucie Blue Tremblay*, on the Olivia label.

She is committed to sharing the Francophone culture with all of her audiences, and that is why she sings in French for half of her concerts. She performs love songs and political anthems, believing that both are important expressions of her art. Among the political songs on her album are *Laissez-Moi Sortir*, which is about women in prison, and *Voix d'Enfant*, about incest from a child's perspective.

She plays guitar and piano, and as an adolescent, played the drums in a band in which her mother performed. She also whistles in a way that listeners say they've never heard before, and occasionally she uses that skill during her performances.

#### Deidra McCalla

Deidre McCalla has been a professional musician and performer for more than a dozen years, and two years ago released a new album *Don't Doubt It* on the Olivia label.

She is known for her rich voice, the



**Farley & Hood, who will appear February 21 at the First Parish Universalist Church. Their concert will be the first in a series of four to benefit the Women's Community Project.**

rhythmic tone of her music and her poetic, non-clichéd lyrics. Her background shows a wide range of experiences. Before releasing *Don't Doubt It*, she toured the U.S. solo, also played with an acoustic duo called "Gypsy" and was lead guitarist and vocalist for a six-woman jazz/rock band out of Milwaukee called "Breakwater."

McCalla is a theatre graduate of Vassar College and the National Theatre Institute, and she was a member of the ensemble cast

of the film "Chords of Fame," which was a docu-drama on the life of sixties folk singer Phil Ochs. She also studied jazz guitar at the Wisconsin Conservatory of Music.

McCalla's songs touch upon issues common to many lives — relationship struggles, self-doubt, dealing with a lover's jealous cat — as well as global concerns such as racial oppression and exploitation of natural resources.

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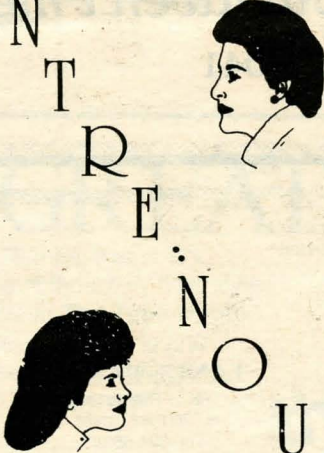
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## Portland Dance Center To Present Three Theatrical Dancer/Choreographer Soloists On One Program Entitled "Three Alone Together"

On January 29-31, 1987, Portland Dance Center will present THREE ALONE/TOGETHER, a program of theatrical, verbal, personal solo dances by three of today's most exciting artists. Choreographer/dancer/performers Maria Cheng, Blondell Cummings, and Liz Lerman will each present works that could touch on subjects as diverse as Chinese foot binding, making chicken soup, and staring face to face at the world's nuclear weapons arsenal. This third concert of PDC's "Adventure Series 1986-87" will take place at 8 PM each night in the Portland Performing Arts Center theater, 25A Forest Avenue in Portland. Tickets range in price from \$7 to \$12 and are available by calling the PDC box office at (207) 774-0465. This season's concert series, which has brought humorous "choreographic" legend David Gordon and his Pick-Up Company to the PPAC theater and Ram Island Dance Company to the Portland Museum of Art galleries in VANTAGE POINTS, has enjoyed great critical acclaim and capacity crowds.

The title, THREE ALONE-TOGETHER, suggests a dualistic nature inherent in a program of three soloists in one evening. It is a good case for the whole being greater than the sum of its parts. The three solo performances will have both an individual sense and a collective sense about them. The program as a whole will take on a personality of its own. This is paralleled by the fact that the style and content of Cheng's, Cummings', and Lerman's works, too, have both individual signatures and collective elements. All three women, through often humorous, always very personal movement, gesture and speech, share their experiences and present shared experiences about all of our lives.

Each artist will present what is considered to be her best-known solo work. These dances epitomize the style of these clever choreographers and are truly signature pieces for the artists.

The exquisitely graceful Maria Cheng will present a piece entitled *Antecedents*, which is a very personal choreographed commentary on her Asian roots especially as they relate to being planted in American soil. Through dance and concurrent storytelling, she addresses tradition, love, sexism, and racism with a wit and wisdom that transcends the individualness of her experience. *National Public Radio*, in a review of *Antecedents*, said, "Everything about her dances and that includes the way she talks." In his New York

Times review, Jack Anderson, who was especially taken by the expressiveness of her upper body, said, "her arms seemed to caress space lovingly, and in one long, delicate and beautifully sustained passage . . . Miss Cheng's hands resembled fluttering wings, leaves in the winds and flowers opening and closing".

The style and content of *Chicken Soup*, part of a comprehensive work choreographed by Blondell Cummings, is indicative of this artist's approach to her art. One of four "courses", "*Chicken Soup*," said the L A Weekly, "looks at the woman's role as nurturer, the source of spiritual and emotional food as well as a good home-cooked meal." Other sources suggest that "*Soup*" is more a treatise on the black woman's traditional role in society. Ms. Cummings uses this and other food images to serve as metaphors for social issues and then brings them to life with the remarkable expressiveness of her dance. "She is a captivating performer who radiates energy, intelligence, and humor. Her art is not only a joy to watch, it's also nourishing," suggested the aforementioned source. The *Village Voice* reviewer said "Blondell Cummings projects character and delineates activity with a virtuosity that always stuns me."

Because Liz Lerman grew up in a politically active family, many of her works deal with socio-political issues and usually in a very verbal way. One of her best-known pieces and the one Portland audiences will enjoy, *Nine Short Dances about the Defense Budget and Other Military Matters*, finds Lerman waltzing with a life-size Mr. Pentagon rag doll and presenting the countries of the world with poignant, clever choreographic signatures followed by the punch line: "There are missiles pointed at every square inch." The *Village Voice* called the piece "a mesmerizing, lyrical solo full of political reminders, wisps of sentiment, evocative gestures . . .". "Lerman's greatest weapon," claimed the *San Francisco Examiner*, "and her greatest strength is a rich and pervasive sense of irony. She exhibits, too, a wonderfully purposeful feeling for movement that melds with word and music to create droll, ominous vignettes which amuse and terrify in equal proportion."

This Portland Dance Center concert is sponsored by Maine Savings Bank and is funded, in part, by the Maine Arts Commission and the National Endowment for the Arts through the New England Foundation for the Arts.

### deja-vous

In a land where life was gay,  
Many people came to play.  
Around the maypole did they swing,  
Hand in hand, they loved to sing.

But me and mine, we did not play,  
Our games were finished yesterday.  
And I remembered in their sight-  
Those joyful days, those endless nights.

And as we left this merry band,  
I looked at mine - caressed his hand,  
And in mine's eyes there rested near,  
a simple-

gentle-  
heartfelt-  
tear.

-Steven Hardy

### #1

the parting of me  
into dimensions of seen  
and unseen - society's tragedy

steven hardy

### A.I.D.S.

There are people dying, as I wait for  
this degree - and it pisses me off!

We walk and talk and jabber about  
how to fill the whole that our  
loneliness  
has dug - while they're digging  
people's graves

I'm talking A.I.D.S. here!  
Don't you dare turn away!  
Don't you dare not care!  
It's time to face the music - unpleasing  
to our ears.

We're killing ourselves, and there's  
no stopping the mind-set of our  
murdering.  
It should have changed long ago, when  
we  
were first beaten down.

But we always come back for more.  
A hope that someday we'll "fit" back  
in.  
Well, stop it!!  
No one ever goes back - all the way.

It's a deathtrap - set by minds of  
social creation, not people.  
Realize that the time is now -  
and even that's too late.

steven j. hardy

### ALONE WITH YOUR IMAGE

Standing here alone with your image  
Your touch warms my cold arms  
Your breath projects the impulses of lovemaking  
I stand here alone in my kitchen  
Alone with your image  
I shake you off like a chill  
Being this way hurts  
Knowing the illusion won't be reality  
Knowing all my dreams were just dreams  
No words could express what I feel now  
I hate and love you  
You burned my heart to the core  
You allowed me to cage my eagle spirit  
These thoughts and more cross my mind  
While I stand alone in my kitchen  
Alone with your image  
Alone with the pain my heart bears

Patrick Dunn

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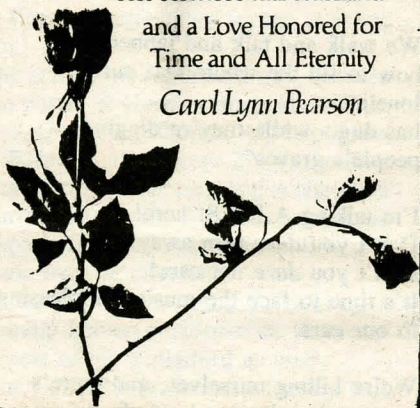


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# Good-bye, I Love You

The True Story of a Wife,  
Her Homosexual Husband—  
and a Love Honored for  
Time and All Eternity  
Carol Lynn Pearson



**Goodbye, I Love You** by Carol Lynn Pearson  
Random House, 1986, \$15.95

by Fred Berger

I never thought I'd read a book subtitled "The True Story of a Wife, Her Homosexual Husband — and a Love Honored for Time and All Eternity," especially one with one red rose and one withered rose on the cover. Whether it was boredom, the increasing sentimentality of my middle years, or a growing sensitivity to other people's problems (I'll choose the latter) that made me pick up *Goodbye, I Love You*, I'm glad I did.

*Goodbye, I Love You* is Carol Lynn Pearson's narrative of her relationship over a period of almost two decades with Gerald Pearson. It is, above all, a love story.

Carol Lynn and Gerald Pearson were both raised in Utah as devout Mormons. They met while appearing in a drama production at Brigham Young University. Gerald had several homosexual experiences before he met Carol Lynn. However, before their marriage he told her about his past and promised, "It will never happen again."

Ten happily-married years and three children later, a friend of Carol's revealed to her that she had seen Gerald in a gay bar in Salt Lake City. Gerald had admitted that he had had gay relationships throughout the past years. This revelation leads to a new honesty in their relationship. Gerald describes his feelings to Carol:

"There is this thing in me that needs, that insists that my strongest feelings be for a man. It is a need that seems to be as deep in me as my need for food and breath. I tried to beat it to death, to strangle it, to smother it, and it has not died."

Carol Lynn and Gerald knew that above all they love each other and want to stay together. Much of the book describes their struggle with what Carol Lynn calls "the monumental mystery that lays between us and around us," a struggle made all the more difficult by their devotion to the Mormon faith.

The couple moved to San Francisco where they eventually separated and divorced. Gerald threw himself into the gay life of the Castro, becoming an active member of the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus and experiencing a series of unsuccessful relationships. He remained close with Carol Lynn and the family. Eventually the worst thing happened: Gerald was diagnosed with AIDS. He returned to the family where they lovingly cared for him until his death.

The above outline does not do justice to the depth of *Goodbye, I Love You*. It is a story which asks: What is gay? How does

one live happily as a gay man in America in the '80s? How does one reconcile love for a gay man with a religion which calls him a vile sinner?

Although I could not relate personally to the religious struggle which the author endured, I learned a great deal about how some people face the "crisis" of homosexuality. We all could learn from *Goodbye, I Love You*. It is a welcome addition to *Now That You Know* and other books about dealing with homosexuality within a family as well as a valuable companion to Barbara Peabody's *Screaming Room*. Fortunately it will receive wide exposure, as it is scheduled to become a CBS-TV movie.



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George Benington, *Portland Monthly* 1986

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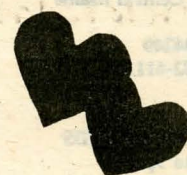
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# Happy Valentine's Day



JK, '83-'87'  
You're my ocean  
high tides and low  
waves of emotion  
ever changing shore  
currents of thought  
depth for the soul  
feeding my desire  
my devotion for living  
a commitment of loving  
As the sands of time flow  
I love you my ocean  
so more than the world could know.

Bruce Allen Godfrey, '83-'87'

Oceans of emotions...  
If you love it  
set it free...  
If it comes back  
it was meant to be.

Goddess of syzygy.  
Bringing highest of tides...  
Your passion washes over me.

Savage woman, you can bite the buttons  
off the fly of my jeans anytime. I lust for  
you and the things you do. Yipes! Happy  
Valentine's Day. I love you. XO XO from  
the one you didn't think would be so bold.

To the incredibly handsome waiter I see  
on Fridays. You make your job an art.  
You make me tingle. I'm shy but will you  
be my Valentine anyway?

To the sexiest, slyest, most spontaneous  
singer in the state. Your virtuosic vocal  
vibrations make this valentine-sender  
shiver. Happy Valentines Day.

To my friend who fears she might be a land monster

Don't worry  
Land monsters aren't known to be musically or theatrically inclined  
Or to serve international dishes while donned in sensuous apparel  
Nor do they make gifts of roses and poetry  
Most important though, these cold-blooded quadrupeds fail to effuse the  
Warmth and generosity I have felt from you  
And I should know because I live with several of them  
In your company, I am so happy I could... well, I could just eat an  
Enchilada  
May you be my valentine and always eschew iodine,

B.L.

Thank you for being my valentine for  
many years, and for all the caring and shar-  
ing of our lives as one. Hope we find more  
happiness on our new venture as two.  
Love, your X.

To a happy Valentine. It's nice being your  
friend.

Pierre. Je t'aime. Moi.

My secret Valentine. Several years ago  
you suggested we roll in the mud together.  
I had an appointment and haven't had an  
invitation like that since. I'm still hoping.  
A Portland admirer.

Q. What do you get when you put together  
a furnace and a radiator?

A. Hot and steamy.

L.T. Where were you when I was single?  
Please be my secret Valentine. M.E.

A Valentine for Janet... Roses are  
yellow, violets are white: You are my  
dream-come-true, my precious light. All  
my love. Sal.

Hey, space shot. The earth moved. Have a  
cosmic Valentines Day. Your sun.

Poppy. Remember when we bought penny  
valentines for everyone in the class? We  
were so generous and so naive. Let's be  
that way again. Love, Lulu.

Dearest Sam. I simply love you. Steve.



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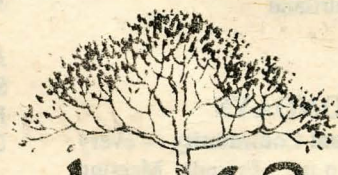
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**The AIDS Project**  
48 Deering St.  
Portland, Me 04101

**Bangor INTERWEAVE**  
P.O. Box 8008  
Bangor, ME 04401

**Bates Gay/Lesbian/Straight Alliance**  
Box 569  
Bates College  
Lewiston, ME 04240

**Bangor Area Gay/Lesbian/Straight Coalition (BAGLSC)**  
c/o 87 Sunset Strip  
Brewer, Me. 04412

**Bowdoin Gay/Straight Alliance**  
Bowdoin College  
Brunswick 04011

**Chiltern Mountain Club**  
P.O. Box 407  
Boston, Mass. 02117  
207-883-6934

**Feminist Spiritual Community**  
9 Deering St.  
P.O. Box 3771  
Portland, Me. 04104  
773-2294

**Fredericton Lesbians and Gays**  
Box 1556, Station A  
Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada

**Free To Be**  
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**Gay Men Social Association**  
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**Greater Bangor NOW**  
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**LAGO-SJ (Lesbian and Gay Organization Saint John)**  
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**Lesbian/Gay Committee**  
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P.O. Box 5112, Station A  
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**Maine Bisexual People's Network**  
P.O. Box 1792  
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780-4085 (messages)

**Maine Connection**  
P.O. Box 5245,  
Station A  
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**Maine Health Foundation, Inc.**  
P.O. box 7329 DTS  
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**Maine Lesbian Feminists**  
P.O. Box 125  
Belfast 04915

**Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance**  
P.O. Box 108  
Yarmouth, ME. 04096

**New Hampshire Citizens Alliance for Gay and Lesbian Rights**  
P.O. Box 756  
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**Northern Lambda Nord**  
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**Our Paper**  
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**Portland Pride Committee**  
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Portland, Me. 04112  
883-6934

**Seacoast Gay Men**  
P.O. Box 1394  
Portsmouth, NH 03801

**USM Women's Forum**  
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92 Bedford St.  
Portland 04103

**Vermonters for Lesbian and Gay Rights (VLGR)**  
Box 281  
Hinesburg, VT 05461

**Wilde-Stein Club**  
Memorial Union  
University of Maine - Orono  
Orono 04469

**Women's Community Project**  
P.O. Box 3733  
Portland, Me. 04104

## Meetings

### SUNDAYS

**Bates Gay/Lesbian/Straight Alliance** — for discussion, support and planning — every Sunday, 8:30 p.m. in Hirasawa Lounge, Chase Hall, Bates College, Lewiston.

**Northern Lambda Nord** — last Sunday of the month — business meeting, 1 p.m. followed by potluck.

**Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance (MLGPA)** — every third Sunday of the month. Meetings rotated throughout state. See Calendar listing for location and time.

**Maine Connection AA Roundup**, second Sunday of every month, 2 p.m., 125 Vaughan St., Portland

### MONDAYS

**Feminist Spiritual Community** — every Monday at 7 p.m., Friends Meeting House, Forest Ave., Portland, 773-2294 (come early).

**Seacoast Gay Men** — every Monday, 7-9 p.m. (except first Monday and holidays). Unitarian-Universalist Church, 292 State St., Portsmouth, NH (side door near basement). Call Mark, (207) 646-2748.

**AIDS Action of Central Maine** — first Monday of every month at Sportsman's, 2 Bates St., Lewiston, 8 p.m. Call Phil Ellis, 784-5047 or 782-6113.

**Adult Children of Alcoholics (ACOA)** — open discussion with focus of gay/lesbian issues, 7:30-9 p.m. YWCA, 87 Spring St., Portland.

### TUESDAYS

**Bangor Area Gay/Lesbian/Straight Coalition (BAGLSC)** meets the second Tuesday of every month at 87 Sunset Strip in Brewer at 7:30 p.m.

**Greater Portland N.O.W.** — fourth Tuesday of the month, YWCA, 87 Spring St., Portland, 7:30 p.m.

**Alcoholics Anonymous — Gays in Sobriety** — every Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., First Parish Universalist-Unitarian Church, 425 Congress St., Portland.

**Gay/Lesbian Al-Anon** — every Tuesday, 7:30-8:30 p.m., First Parish Unitarian-Universalist Church, 425 Congress St., Portland.

**Our Paper staff meeting** — every Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. 9 Deering St., Portland. New members are welcome.

**Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays** — last Tuesday of the month, 7:30, First Parish Church Pilgrim House, 9 Cleveland St., Brunswick. Call 725-4769 for information.

### WEDNESDAY

**Fredericton Lesbians and Gays (FLAG)** — second Wednesday of the month, Fredericton, NB, Canada.

### THURSDAYS

**Lesbian/Gay Alcoholics Anonymous** — every Thursday, discussion meeting at 8 p.m., Unitarian Church, Main Street, Bangor.

**VLGR (Vermonters for Lesbian and Gay Rights)** meets first and third Thursday of every month at 7:30 p.m. at the Peace and Justice Center, 186 College St., Burlington, VT.

**Greater Bangor N.O.W.** — last Thursday of the month, Bangor City Hall, 7 p.m. Call 989-3306 for info.

**Wilde-Stein Club** — Thursday evening 6-9 p.m., Sutton Lounge, Memorial Union, UMO.

**Gay/Lesbian Alcoholics Anonymous** — every Thursday, step meeting, 7:30 p.m. First Parish Unitarian-Universalist Church, 425 Congress St., Portland.

### FRIDAYS

**Free To Be Group of AA** — meets Fridays at 7:30 p.m., Jewett Hall, UMA, room 114.

**Gay/Lesbian Alliance** — every other Friday at 7 p.m., 92 Bedford St., Portland, 780-4085.

**Alcoholics Anonymous** meets every Friday, 8-9:30 p.m. — Gays Together in Sobriety (open discussion), Christ Episcopal Church, 80 Lafayette Rd., Portsmouth, NH.

### SATURDAYS

**Free To Be Gay/Lesbian Alcoholics Anonymous** — every Saturday, 8 p.m., The House, 60 Oak St. (corner Blake), Lewiston.

**Bangor INTERWEAVE Inc.** — Coffee house and dance, first and third Saturdays from 9 p.m.-1 a.m. at University College Center, Texas Avenue, Bangor. \$3. General meeting at 8 p.m. For info call 884-7079.

## Calendar

**Saturday, Feb. 7**

MLGPA's regular monthly meeting, All Soul's Church, Augusta.

**Saturday, Feb. 14**

Northern Lambda Nord's 7th anniversary party, Caribou Country Club, 8 p.m. For more information, call 498-2088, Wednesday 7-9 p.m., or leave a message.

**Saturday, Feb. 14**

Chiltern Mountain Club cross-country ski trip and pot-luck supper. Sanford area. Non-members and supper-only people are welcome. Call Michael at 883-6934.

**Saturday, Feb. 21**

Farley & Hood in concert, Portland.

**Saturday, Mar. 14**

MLGPA's Annual Meeting and Celebratory Dinner, Augusta.

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